

any individual were put there to prevent it from becoming a merchants' collection agency?

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I would guess, may I just answer that in a brief sentence?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Sure.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I would guess that the reason for it was to maintain a relatively reasonable case load. I would guess that is why it was limited to that amount.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you're not aware that it had anything to do with the inclination of merchants to use this court as a collection agency?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'd have to look at it. I would say probably to maintain a reasonable case load, but I...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. Members of the Legislature, I know that is why the restrictions were put and the ten per year was offered as a concession to the merchants. No ordinary citizen is going to have that many claims coming in against a neighbor or whoever. That was the merchants amendment. Now a certain category of merchants for a certain category of cases wants to do away with the restriction all together.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I hope you will adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins is next but I was a little previous in announcing Senator Rogers' guests in the north balcony. I believe they are now here from Cairo, 40 eighth graders from Centura Public Schools in Cairo along with their teacher. Would you folks please rise now so we can welcome you. Thank you. Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. In looking at the Smith amendment it says strike "or legal guardian". Senator Chambers, would you correct me if I'm wrong on this, but in my workings with foster parents, and I have worked with the foster parents group many times in Omaha. Every child that is given a foster parent by court order in Douglas